

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

*A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy*

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## President Obama on 16th Anniversary of Genocide in Rwanda

*U.S. renews commitment and redoubles efforts to prevent mass atrocities*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
April 7, 2010

Statement by the President on the 16th Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda

On this 16th commemoration of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, we devote our thoughts to those who were lost and honor those who survived. More than 800,000 men, women, and children were killed and countless others continue to live with the pain and trauma of their memories and their loss. It is not enough to say "never again." We must renew our commitment and redouble our efforts to prevent mass atrocities and genocide. We are inspired by the spirit of the Rwandan people to move forward and we stand with the people of Rwanda and the international community in commemorating the genocide.

The United States is committed to its partnership with Rwanda and will continue to support efforts to promote sustainable development, respect for human rights, and sustainable peace in Rwanda and the region.

## President Obama Praises Legendary Bolivian-American Teacher

*Jaime Escalante, inspiration for film "Stand and Deliver," dies at 79*

By Erica Marrero  
Staff Writer

Washington — Jaime Escalante, the Bolivian-born Los Angeles high school teacher who inspired underprivileged students to excel in advanced mathematics, died March 31 at age 79. Escalante believed that all students, regardless of their race or economic background, could succeed at academically demanding course work when properly prepared and motivated.

In a message to Escalante's family, President Obama said: "Throughout his career Jaime opened the doors of success and higher education for his students one by one, and proved that where a person came from did not have to determine how far they could go. He instilled knowledge in his students, but more importantly he helped them find the passion and the will to fulfill their potential."

Hired in 1974 as a math teacher at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles, California, Escalante boldly transformed the school's mathematics curriculum and

pushed his underachieving inner-city students to master college-level calculus. By 1987, Garfield High had the fifth-highest number of "advanced placement" calculus students in the country.

The Advanced Placement Program qualifies high school students for college credit if they pass an exam with a high score.

The 1988 film *Stand and Deliver* chronicled Escalante's battle to raise standards at the struggling high school of working-class, largely Mexican-American students and turned him into the most famous math teacher in America. Actor Edward James Olmos' portrayal of Escalante garnered an Academy Award nomination for best actor.

Escalante left Garfield High School in 1991 and taught at schools in Sacramento, California, before retiring to his native Bolivia in 2001, where he continued to teach and inspire.

## Secretary Clinton on Nuclear Security Strategy

*Clinton outlines steps to reduce global threat of nuclear weapons*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
April 8, 2010

Secretary Clinton Outlines Nuclear Security Strategy in International Op-Ed

The following op-ed by Secretary Clinton was originally published in *The Guardian* newspaper in the United Kingdom and is also appearing in Germany's *Berliner Zeitung*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger* and *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung*.

The full text of Secretary Clinton's op-ed follows:

## Our Giant Step Towards a World Free from Nuclear Danger

*This treaty shows the strength of America's commitment to global disarmament – and to our national security*

By Hillary Rodham Clinton

Today the United States and Russia will sign the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) in Prague, reducing the number of strategic nuclear warheads in our arsenals to levels not seen since the first decade of the nuclear age. This verifiable reduction by the world's two largest nuclear powers reflects our commitment to the basic bargain of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) -- all nations have the right to seek the peaceful use of nuclear energy, but they all also have the responsibility to prevent nuclear proliferation, and those that do possess

these weapons must work toward disarmament.

This agreement is just one of several concrete steps the United States is taking to make good on President Obama's pledge to make America and the world safer by reducing the threat of nuclear weapons, proliferation and terrorism.

On Tuesday (April 6), the President announced the U.S. Government's Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), which provides a roadmap for reducing the role and numbers of our nuclear weapons while more effectively protecting the United States and our allies from today's most pressing threats.

Next week, President Obama will host more than 40 leaders at a Nuclear Security Summit for the purpose of securing all vulnerable nuclear materials as swiftly as possible to prevent them from falling into the hands of terrorists.

And along with our international partners, the United States is pursuing diplomatic efforts that create real consequences for states such as Iran and North Korea that defy the global nonproliferation regime.

These steps send clear messages about our priorities and our resolve.

To our allies and partners, and all those who have long looked to the United States as an underwriter of regional and global security: Our commitment to defend our interests and our allies has never been stronger. These steps will make us all safer and more secure.

To those who refuse to meet their international obligations and seek to intimidate their neighbors: The world is more united than ever before and will not accept your intransigence.

Today's agreement is a testament to our own determination to meet our obligations under the NPT and the special responsibilities that the United States and Russia bear as the two largest nuclear powers.

The New START Treaty includes a 30 percent reduction in the number of strategic nuclear warheads the United States and Russia are permitted to deploy and a strong and effective verification regime, which will further stabilize the relationship between our two countries as well as reduce the risks of miscommunication or miscalculation.

And the Treaty places no constraints on our missile defense plans – now or in the future.

President Obama's Nuclear Posture Review makes the

principles behind this Treaty – and our larger nonproliferation and arms control agenda – part of our national security strategy. Today nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism have replaced the Cold War-era danger of a large-scale nuclear attack as the most urgent threat to U.S. and global security. The NPR outlines a new approach that will ensure that our defenses and diplomacy are geared toward meeting these challenges effectively.

As part of this new approach, the United States pledges not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear weapons state that is party to the NPT and in compliance with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations. The United States would only consider the use of nuclear weapons in extreme circumstances to defend the vital interests of the United States or its allies and partners. There should be no doubt, however, that we will hold fully accountable any state, terrorist group, or other non-state actor that supports or enables terrorist efforts to obtain or use weapons of mass destruction.

The NPR also emphasizes close cooperation with our allies around the world, and maintains our firm commitment to mutual security. We will work with our partners to reinforce regional security architectures, such as missile defenses, and other conventional military capabilities. The United States will continue to maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent for ourselves and our allies so long as these weapons exist anywhere in the world.

Nuclear proliferation and terrorism are global challenges, and they demand a global response. That is why President Obama has invited leaders from around the world to Washington for a Nuclear Security Summit and will seek commitments from all nations – especially those that enjoy the benefits of civilian nuclear power – to take steps to stop proliferation and secure vulnerable nuclear materials. If terrorists ever acquired these dangerous materials, the results would be too terrible to imagine.

All nations must recognize that the nonproliferation regime cannot survive if violators are allowed to act with impunity. That is why we are working to build international consensus for steps that will convince Iran's leaders to change course, including new UN Security Council sanctions that will further clarify their choice of upholding their obligations or facing increasing isolation and painful consequences. With respect to North Korea, we continue to send the message that simply returning to the negotiating table is not enough. Pyongyang must move toward complete and verifiable denuclearization, through irreversible steps, if it wants a normalized, sanctions-free relationship with the United States.

All these steps, all our treaties, summits and sanctions,

share the goal of increasing the security of the United States, our allies, and people everywhere.

Last April, President Obama stood in Hradcany Square in Prague and challenged the world to pursue a future free of the nuclear dangers that have loomed over us all for more than a half century. This is the work of a lifetime, if not longer. But today, one year later, we are making real progress toward that goal.

### **U.S. Concerned by Unrest in Kyrgyzstan**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States expressed deep concern about the loss of life in Kyrgyzstan following two days of bloody protests and unrest that started in northwestern Kyrgyzstan on April 6 and spread throughout the capital, Bishkek, on April 7.

"We have reached out to government and civil society leaders to urge calm, nonviolence and respect for the rights of citizens, especially under emergency situations," U.S. Ambassador Ian Kelly said April 8 in Vienna at a meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters April 8 that President Obama has been kept informed about the crisis in Kyrgyzstan. Gibbs is traveling with the president, who was in Prague for the signing of a new arms-reduction treaty with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

"The president has been closely following the events in Kyrgyzstan, and continues to monitor the situation with his national security team," Gibbs said. "We urge that calm be restored to Bishkek and other affected areas in a manner consistent with democratic principles and with respect for human rights."

Gibbs added that the United States deplores the use of deadly force by some of the Kyrgyz security services against the demonstrators and by some of the demonstrators against the security forces, and continues to be concerned about looting and disorder.

"The United States looks forward to continuing our productive relationship with the people of Kyrgyzstan and the renewal of Kyrgyzstan's democratic path," Gibbs said.

Thousands of protesters, furious over corruption and rising energy costs, seized government buildings in Talas on April 6 and in Bishkek April 7 and clashed with police and security forces. Police and security forces opened fire in Bishkek, killing dozens and wounding hundreds more,

according to news reports. In the aftermath of the clashes, Kyrgyzstan President Kurmanbek Bakiev fled the capital after declaring a state of emergency, and an opposition group has formed a transitional government. News reports on April 8 said Bakiev was in a southern Kyrgyzstan city.

At the OSCE, Kelly said the United States has endorsed an April 6 statement from U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that calls for restraint and immediate talks aimed at lowering tensions. Ban dispatched Ján Kubiš, the executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, as his special envoy to the Central Asian nation. Ban was in Bishkek April 2-3, and had urged leaders there to uphold human rights and guarantee freedom of speech.

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev, who is Kazakhstan's secretary of state and foreign minister, announced April 8 that he was sending special envoy Zhanybek Karibzhanov to Kyrgyzstan. Karibzhanov is deputy speaker of the Majilis (the lower house of parliament) of Kazakhstan, chairman of the Kazakh-Kyrgyz inter-parliamentary group and a former Kazakh ambassador. Saudabayev also announced that Ambassador Herbert Salber, director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna, will travel to Bishkek to support Karibzhanov.

The United States maintains a military transit center at the Manas airport, near Bishkek, which it uses to support operations in Afghanistan. Russia also maintains an air base in the country. U.S. officials said the transit center at Manas was operating, but personnel were confined to the facility.

### **Climate Crisis Brings New Opportunities, Expert Says**

*"No person is too small to make a difference," says Jonathan Pershing*

By Karin Rives  
Staff Writer

Washington — Every person willing to do something to address the global problem of climate change can have an impact, the U.S. Department of State's deputy special envoy for climate change said April 7.

Governments — and businesses that know to take advantage of emerging clean-energy markets — can also make a difference, said Jonathan Pershing in a Global Conversations climate webchat.

Speaking to participants from across the globe, including university students in Brazil, China, India and the United States, Pershing said switching to a mostly carbon-free society will cost enormously in new infrastructure and technology investments.

By signing the December 2009 Copenhagen Accord, developed nations signaled their intent to spend \$100 billion annually by 2020 to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and help developing nations adapt to climate change. Seventy-five nations have signed the agreement so far and submitted emission reduction targets, setting the stage for a legally binding climate agreement perhaps as early as this year. Together, these nations account for 80 percent of the world's energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

However, the climate change challenge and towering costs also bring opportunities for involvement at every possible level, Pershing said.

"It can be as small of a thing as paying attention to whether the lights are left on, or paying attention to the consumption that you as an individual, and that your family and your community has," he said. "We can reduce the size [of the carbon footprint] no matter where we stand."

Individuals can also reach out to government leaders and academic institutions with an interest in climate change and ultimately push for social change.

"Find out what they're doing, engage with them, contribute your ideas about how you can move something forward. And collectively that will begin to change the policies of government ... and behavior of society, which is what's required," Pershing told the students. "This is a problem that is both local and global, and both sides of that equation have to engage."

The search for cleaner energy is an opportunity for businesses as well, many of which have already taken advantage of new markets for renewable energy and alternative technologies. Going forward, Pershing predicted, such markets will only grow. The current global fleet of wind power generating stations needs to expand 750 times to slash carbon dioxide emissions by one gigaton. In all, seven gigatons of carbon dioxide must be trimmed to reduce emissions by 50 percent by 2050 — the level required to stabilize the climate.

Another gigaton would be achieved if the world's 1 billion cars were switched to vehicles that get 40 miles per gallon (17 kilometers per liter). Any carmaker looking at options for growth could find huge investment potential developing these vehicles, he said.

"Climate change need not be only a negative," Pershing said. "Managing the impacts clearly is something we have to do, but the shifts in economy, the opportunity for technology, for investment, for global jobs, for development is substantial."

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